

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



January 4, 2001

REFUGEE COORDINATOR LETTER NO.

To: County Refugee Coordinators

Please be advised that the next Refugee Coordinators meeting is scheduled as follows:

Date: Tuesday, May 22, 2001
Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Location: California Department of Social Services Training Center
815 "S" Street, Sierra Room (at the corner of 8th and "S"
Streets)
Sacramento, CA 95814

Free parking is available behind the building.

Please find enclosed a copy of the minutes of the last meeting and updated rosters of the Refugee Programs Branch and Refugee County Coordinators.

If you have any suggestions for the proposed agenda for the upcoming May meeting, please mail, e-mail or fax them to:

Daniel Crawford
California Department of Social Services
Refugee Programs Branch
744 P Street, MS 6-646
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: (916) 654-7187
daniel.crawford@dss.ca.gov

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Daniel Crawford at (916) 654-5964.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by
Janet Sandlin on 1/4/01*

Janet Sandlin, Acting Chief
Refugee Programs Branch

Enclosures

REFUGEE COORDINATORS MEETING

**Thursday, January 25, 2001
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

Introductions

Janet Sandlin

Guests:

□ Low Cost Refugee Housing Initiative

Jo Ann Soker, Refugee Works

□ Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

Jamie McLeod, Refugee Works

Regulations/Guidelines update

Betts Smith

Refugee Mental Health Forum/ Elderly Refugee Services Symposium

Phyllis Iwasaki

OCR Activities/2001 Refugee Conference

Thuan Nguyen

Refugee Health Issues

Laura Hardcastle

County Comments/Roundtable (including status
on discretionary projects and coordination efforts
local agencies)

Refugee Coordinators

Closing Remarks/Announcements

Janet Sandlin

COUNTY COORDINATORS MEETING ATTENDEES

October 26, 2000

The meeting was held at the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Folsom Boulevard office in Sacramento, and was called to order by Bob Barton. Attendees included:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Bob Barton	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-1115
Janet Sandlin	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-1246
Phyllis Iwasaki	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-2387
Lenore Schmidt	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-2805
Steve Saucedo	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-5594
Roger Caron	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-1376
Daniel Crawford	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-5964
Jay Nelson	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-0703
Betts Smith	State DSS/RPB	(916) 654-0495
Christine Webb-Curtis	State DSS/CRB	(916) 654-2105
Thuan Nguyen	State DSS/OCR	(916) 654-1343
Laura Hardcastle	State DHS/RHS	(916) 323-1164
Jamie McLeod	RefugeeWorks	(408) 246-6155
Janet Tompkins	Contra Costa County	(510) 412-3237
Josie Marquez	Los Angeles County	(213) 738-3986
Veronica Larkins	Los Angeles County	(213) 260-2172
Dolores Mejia	Orange County	(714) 541-7874
Long Thai Nguyen	Sacramento SETA	(916) 263-3852
Kim Chi Trieu	Santa Clara County	(408) 441-5659
Michelle Malecki	Santa Clara County	(408) 441-5590
Karen Hart	San Francisco PIC	(415) 431-8700
An Tran	San Joaquin County	(209) 468-2061
Nancy Schou	Yolo County	(530) 669-2300
Sergey Terebkov	Yolo County	(916) 375-6319
Yuliya Balabanova	Yolo County	(916) 375-6255
Pao Ly	Fresno County	(559) 453-6092
Phil Flores	Merced County	(209) 385-3000

Bob opened the meeting with introductions from the attendees and some descriptions about the programs represented by the three guests.

Federal Language Proficiency Requirements (Christine Webb-Curtis)

Chris, Chief of the CDSS Civil Rights Bureau, delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the activities of her bureau, including: bureau responsibilities in the investigation of alleged civil rights violations; the step-by-step process of dealing with civil rights complaints; and county roles and staff responsibility in civil rights. The principal focus of her presentation dealt with Federal Requirements for counties who serve clients with limited English proficiency. Specifically, this included “meaningful language access” through: availability of multi-language literature and staff with various languages skill; accurate and current case information on clients with English language limitations; proximity of services to populations with limited English capability; and the impact of regulations on county subcontractors (like English language instructors);

Capacity Building/Technical Assistance (Jamie McLeod)

Jamie provided a status report of RefugeeWorks project contracted with RPB to provide technical assistance to both start-up and established service providers throughout the refugee-impacted counties. She opened by mentioning some RefugeeWorks organizational developments, followed by a history of project activities and an itinerary of planned activities for the future. She solicited feedback from coordinators about provider reactions to the RefugeeWorks assistance, and entertained additions of any new organizations to a “wait list” which might receive assistance after the original group of thirty-five identified groups have been seen. She stressed the voluntary nature of the assistance and the need of provider involvement and response for it to succeed, points reiterated by Bob and some of the coordinators.

Citizenship/Public Charge Campaign (Veronica Larkin)

Veronica (Josie Marquez’s successor with the Los Angeles Community and Senior Services’ Citizenship and Public Charge Assistance Campaign) gave an overview of her program. She provided a description of its public charge aspects, including: outreach efforts; involvement of prominent service providers; and the use of various multi-media outlets like their website, commercial and cable-access television public service announcements, and a multi-language telephone hotline. She followed with a series of brief but instructive videos illustrating the Campaign in action.

Federal Update/Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) Regulations (Betts Smith)

Betts indicated that a draft of the State-option RCA regulations tied to CalWORKs has been completed and is in review. She presented an

approximate timetable for the publication and processing of the regulations. She discussed the formation of an advisory team from county programs to comment on and propose changes to the regulations before they begin their formal review.

RPB E-mailbox (Phyllis Iwasaki)

Phyllis reminded the coordinators of the availability of the electronic mail box through RPB's web page. The mailbox enables anyone who visits the page to directly contact RPB staff with questions and concerns, as well as to send and receive formal written reports and other communications.

Status on County Service and Goal Plans (Lenore Schmidt)

Lenore outlined the new automated County Service and Goal Plan format, and reminded the county coordinators of the upcoming due date for submission of the plan.

Office of Community Relations (OCR) Activities (Thuan Nguyen)

Thuan gave brief announcements about early plans for two of her office's major events for 2001: the next Women's Leadership Training Conference, to be held at a Northern California location around May; and the 12th annual Refugee Information Exchange Conference, at a yet-to-determined Southern California location in September. Site possibilities and program suggestions for both events are encouraged.

Refugee Health Issues (Laura Hardcastle)

Laura announced that comprehensive health assessments are now being conducted on the DHS electronic Refugee Health Information System (RHIS), and all counties are expected to be conducting these by October of 2001; comprehensive demographic information is expected from the system at this time. Translation training for medical services interpretation has been contracted for and awarded to counties; the limitations of these award amounts is inspiring a "train the trainers" program as an affordable addition. A Request for Application for grants for preventive health is being readied to continue support to local programs, some of whom had difficulties accessing this money in the past year. An Office of Refugee and Resettlement (ORR)-sponsored reproductive health conference is scheduled in December, possibly in lieu of a national ORR conference. And lastly she shared the news of a happy event in her own life--her marriage!

Phyllis announced that a Refugee Mental Health forum and an Elderly Refugees symposium will be sponsored by RPB in the new year.

County Comments/Roundtable (County Refugee Coordinators)

The customary roundtable discussion followed wherein refugee coordinators provided status reports on activities within their counties' Refugee Services programs. The major news was the announcement by Kim Chi True that she was retiring from Santa Clara County employment in late December.

Closing Remarks/Announcements (Bob Barton)

Bob closed this meeting—his last as RPB chief—by reminding the coordinators of all of the improvements, new features and continuous updates on the RPB web page; and by bidding farewell to the coordinators, with thanks for all of their work and contributions to the program over the years.